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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 1954

Public Information Committee
Atomic Scientists of Chicago
5734 University Avenue
Midway 3-0800, Ext. 3747
James R. Arnold, Chairman

On Tuesday we called upon both Secretary of the Navy Thomas and upon Vice-President Nixon to account for political interference with the personnel security system in the case of Dr. Edward U. Condon. Mr. Thomas stated yesterday in California that Mr. Nixon had never talked to him "directly or indirectly, or to any person, about this case."

We are glad to have Mr. Thomas comment because we feel that the record must be set straight. Nevertheless, the fact that Mr. Nixon did intervene in the case, if not personally with Mr. Thomas, is indicated in a New York Times story by W.R. Conklin datelined Cheyenne, Wyo., Oct. 23, which quotes Mr. Nixon directly as saying, "Before I left Washington I asked that the Dr. Condon matter be re-examined."

We are still very perturbed that the Secretary of the Navy should overrule after less than 24 hours consideration a decision on which the Eastern Industrial Review Board had labored for about a year. In particular we note in the N.Y. Times story datelined Washington, Oct. 21, that Mr. Thomas said that the Board had more information than he did.

We feel that the public has a right to know the full story in this extraordinary case.

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The Atomic Scientists of Chicago is an organization of scientists concerned with the impact of science on public affairs. It is the local chapter of the Federation of American Scientists. Its chairman is Dr. Arthur H. Rosenfeld of the University of Chicago.